

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed September 16, 2003. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Examiner rejected claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,439,722 issued to Seegers, et al. The Seegers reference was filed March 8, 2000. The present application was originally filed November 12, 1999. Therefore, the Seegers reference is not prior art to the present application. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 102(e) over Seegers.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Judith A. Szepesi at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/17 2004



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